

INFO LOG-01 ADS-00 CCD-00 /000 V

0 101647Z FEB 89
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0129

SECRET SANTIAGO

FOR ARA-KOZAK AND L-COLSON

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, ASEC, CI
SUBJ: OFFER/THREAT BY MANUEL CONTRERAS

1. SECRET ENTIRE MESSAGE.

2. HAS SENT FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM TO CHARGE

ARA IS REQUESTED TO BRING THIS TELEGRAM TO THE
ATTENTION OF AMBASSADOR GILLESPIE.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

IT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT RETIRED GENERAL
MANUEL CONTRERAS SEPULVEDA MAY BE PLANNING TO TAKE
UNSPECIFIED ACTIONS PREJUDICIAL TO THE U.S. GOVERN-
MENT FOLLOWING THE END OF FEBRUARY 1989. IN WHAT
APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AN ATTEMPT BY CONTRERAS TO
SEND A MESSAGE TO THE USG:

IN FOUR APPARENTLY SEPARATE CONTACTS
WITH "GRINGOS" IN THE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO
THE 5 OCTOBER PLEBISCITE, CONTRERAS AND THE "GRINGOS"
ARRIVED AT AN "UNDERSTANDING" WHEREBY NEITHER SIDE
WOULD REVEAL INFORMATION DAMAGING TO CONTRERAS,
PRESIDENT PINOCHET, THEN U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE
BUSH, AND THEN U.S. AMBASSADOR BARNES. IN THE CONTEXT
OF DAMAGING INFORMATION WAS INCLUDED THE LETELIER
CASE
AND

4. CONTRERAS CONSIDERS THIS "UNDERSTANDING" TO HAVE
BEEN BROKEN BY RECENT USG INITIATIVES, AND UNLESS
A NEW UNDERSTANDING IS ARRIVED AT BY THE END OF
FEBRUARY, CONTRERAS WILL BE FREE TO TAKE UNSPECIFIED
ACTIONS PREJUDICIAL TO THE USG.

5. CONTRERAS IS ALLEGEDLY WILLING TO MEET WITH A
USG REPRESENTATIVE AND "TESTIFY" IN CHILE IF PRIOR
AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON AN APPROPRIATE STORY TO
EXPLAIN THE CASE. CONTRERAS DESCRIBED THE "STORY"
AS CHARACTERIZING LETELIER AS A CUBAN AGENT, ACTIVE
IN BOTH THE U.S. AND CHILE, WHO WAS KILLED BY CUBAN
EXILES WHO WERE AWARE OF LETELIER'S STATUS AS A
CUBAN AGENT. (COMMENT: IT WAS NOT CLEAR IF CONTRERAS
ACTUALLY HAS ANY EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE SUCH A
CLAIM.) CONTRERAS ALSO REFERRED TO A SON OF PRESIDENT
PINOCHET (PROBABLY MARCO ANTONIO) AND ARMANDO FERNANDEZ
LARIOS AS HAVING BEEN JOINTLY INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS
TRAFFICKING AS ANOTHER ELEMENT IN THE CASE.

COMMENT

7. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE MOST LIKELY ACTIONS
PREJUDICIAL TO THE USG WOULD BE A CONTINUATION OF
ATTACKS ON THE USG AND ITS PERSONNEL IN THE
GOVERNMENT-FINANCED MEDIA, SUCH AS RECENT STORIES
IMPLYING THAT PRESIDENT BUSH, WHILE DIRECTOR OF
CIA, COVERED UP THE CULPABILITY OF CUBAN CIA
EMPLOYEES IN THE LETELIER MURDER. HOWEVER,
CONTRERAS IS THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN CHILE,
HE IS CURRENTLY FEELING UNDER EXTREME PRESSURE
FROM BOTH THE LETELIER CASE AND CHILEAN MURDER
CHARGES AGAINST HIS SON IN AN UNRELATED CASE, AND
WE CANNOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF A CONTRERAS-
INITIATED TERRORIST ACT. JONES

ARA IN6
for CIA
C-61

Chile Project (#S199900030)

U.S. Department of State

Release ☐ Excise ☒ Deny ☐

Declassify: In Part ☒ In Full ☐

Exemption(s) B1, B-C

UNCLASSIFIED

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Box 1 of 4 358M

FROM: (Name) (Office Symbol) (Room No.) (Only)
 TO: (Name) (Office Symbol) (Room No.) (Only)
 PART V DATE RECEIVED: _____
 IDENTIFICATION _____

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A-BA/SC - Dick

approach is right - I would be mightly
 disgraced if any USG person made any such deal
 with this piece of dogshit - we should talk with
 how this could be used to further pressure
 Contreras - the best defense may be an offense
 e.g. telling ~~Contreras~~ the F.M. that this guy is
 threatening us and that we will hold the GOC
 responsible if any of this is carried out - might
 also signal in one way that Contreras is obviously
 willing to make up stories about everybody to
 blackmail them into protecting him (i.e. that
 we realize Pinochet is at one in the same boat)
 and ~~that~~ imply that it would behoove Pinochet
 to go ahead & cut this guy loose & let him
 take his best shot - the notion is that Pinochet
 can defend himself against charges Contreras
 may make (whether true or not) by saying
 Contreras has made equally preposterous
 charges against us - this may be what all
 of this is designed to do -- give Pinochet some
 message should he it works
 if he does not, it might be one - if he does not, it might be one - if he does not, it might be one
 G. L. H. MK

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